

DFRL-DRDO inks 29 licence agreements with F&B cos for transfer of tech

By Nandita Vijay

DFRL-DRDO inked 29 licence agreements for technology transfers (LA ToT) to spur food entrepreneurship in the country. A business-to-business (B2B) interaction was held with entrepreneurs to explore the possibility of establishing food processing industries in Goa.

The pact inked with the entrepreneurs included Tropical Fruits and Agro Products, Kerala, and Sushma and Co (Electricals), Mumbai, for curd making machines and digitalised hot plate.

There were six edible cutlery companies. These included Prime Foods (Mysuru); two from Bengaluru (Padmavathi Ramona, Rashi e-Waste Solution and Seveneves); Vijay Gas Agencies (Salem) and Frumar Food Products (Hyderabad).

Other companies were Indoglobal Ingredients, Bengaluru, for flax-oat tasty oat bar, ergogenic bar, coco cocoa delight bar, omega 3 rich bar and composite cereal bar; Nidhi Foods, Puttur, for flaxseed-based products and millet products; Pearl Pulps, Bengaluru, for fruit beverages (grapes); Christy Friedgram, Trichengode, for Jiffy Halwa and Jiffy Upma; Rajaganapathy Food Industries, Mysuru, for Jiffy Upma; Zerbera Foods, Goa, for millet ragi products; Lawrence Dale Agro Processing India, Nilgiris, for minimally-processed vegetables; Pristine Tropical Fruits and Agro Products, Kerala, for osmo-dehydrated fruits (pineapple); Plus Instant Beverages and Vending, Mumbai, for ready-to-reconstitute coffee mix; R K Foods, Salem, for vacuum-fried fruit and vegetable chips; Jain Agro Food Products, Maddur, Karnataka, for vacuum-fried fruit and vegetable chips; MM Food Products, Bengaluru, for vacuum-fried fruit and vegetable chips; FTP Food & Beverages, Mangaluru, for vacuum-fried fruit and vegetable chips; Goan Fruit Processors, Bicholim, for vacuum-fried fruit and vegetable chips, and Anil Engineering, Betki, North Goa, for vegetabilised bhujia.

At the recently-concluded Industry Interface and Technology Management (DIITM), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Goa State Industries Association (GSIA) conclave on food technologies, the platform showcased DRDO/DFRL products and spin-off technologies for large-scale adoption by entrepreneurs.

The objective was to create awareness among Goan entrepreneurs and the general public about the availability of 142 food technologies and products which were developed initially for the Armed Forces by DRDO.

The conclave suggested that research bodies must also find the way to utilise local bio-resources, such as breadfruit and jackfruit, among others.

Inaugurating the conclave, Manohar Parrikar, chief minister, Goa, said, “DFRL-DRDO played a significant role, as it caters to the requirements of the Armed Forces.”

“Those who intend to venture into self-employment can set up their industry units by availing the benefits of various schemes of the government of Goa and should capitalise on the various incentives, such as the reimbursement of royalty for the entrepreneurs in the region who adopt DRDO food technologies,” he added.

Vijai Sardesai, the state agriculture minister, urged Goan entrepreneurs to use modern food technologies for the hospitality sector.

Shashi Bala Singh, distinguished scientist and director general (life sciences), DRDO; Rajkumar Kamat, president, GSIA; G K Sharma, officiating director, DFRL, and Mayank Dwivedi, director, Industry Interface & Technology Management (DIITM), were present at the event.

S Guruprasad, director general (PC&SI), DRDO, briefed entrepreneurs about the organisation's technologies and technology transfer procedures to the Goa entrepreneurs.

Dr S N Sabapathy, scientist G, highlighted DFRL/DRDO technologies. A D Semwal, scientist G; M Pal Murugan, scientist D, and Lavkush Kumar from DRDO coordinated the B2B meetings.